

no circumstances whatever was it pardonable. Of course, it is not the correct or desirable thing to do, but there are frequently cases when if a nurse did not take her few moments of outing in uniform she could not take them at all.

And while in a dissenting mood, I wonder why some things are done in training-schools that, from a common-sense standpoint, seem rather absurd? For instance, in one school of which I have been told, the nurse provides a complete probation outfit,—uniforms, aprons and cuffs in abundance, which at end of probation period are all discarded, not even the aprons and cuffs used, although there is only the slightest difference in the way they are made. In one instance of a nurse who is making a splendid record in the school, it was really a hardship to her family to provide the quantity of uniforms required. It seems as if some of the unnecessary labor and expense might be avoided.

In the same school the nurses are not allowed to speak to internes. If an interne enters a parlor where a nurse is with a visitor the nurse is required to leave the room. Among a class of young women such as nurses are supposed to be, such rules seem rather out of place.

In a very excellent school where seniors did outside work at the time, the rule was made that no nurse should drive with a coachman unless some member of the family were along. Some nurse had stooped to flirt with a coachman and the rest of the school were made to suffer with her. Naturally there was great indignation.

I have digressed from original purpose and sound very critical. My attitude toward nurses and training-schools is not critical, however.

V. V. H.,
Madison, Ga.

DEAR EDITOR: For some months past, I have been an interested reader of the articles in which nurses have been criticised for not responding to the call for nurses for the Army Reserve Corps, also in some of the answers which have appeared in the late JOURNALS.

First, I must admit that, to the general public, it may look like indifference or lack of patriotism, but that it really is, I most emphatically deny. The busy nurse is apt to put off the complicated and troublesome preliminaries that are required, when she does not see any signs of really being needed. perhaps not in years, possibly never.

As for the ex-army nurse, she may have her reasons for not offering her services. Of the many whom I know, there is not one whose loyalty and patriotism can be doubted, nor who would not willingly go anywhere where she needed.

I was an army nurse from July of '98 to April of 1900, and in all have done over six years of government work, yet I hesitate to offer my services to the War Department, not knowing whether they would be considered worthy of acceptance. Is it not possible that many others may feel somewhat the same?

ANNA R. TURNER,
Ancon Hospital, Panama.

DEAR EDITOR: A few of the methods I have adopted in obstetrical nursing may be of help to "Yearling" in solving the problems mentioned in the March number. When engaging for a case a list of supplies is given the patient including gauze, cotton and old squares of linen or soft cotton for use inside of diapers. I explain that the vulva pads of gauze and cotton and the squares containing the worst of the soil are burned, thereby saving much laundry. I myself rinse out the wet diapers for use the second time (never more), and place the soiled ones in cold water in the laundry for the maid to wash. I only wash the baby's flannels when I see that they are being ruined.

Usually the baby can take its airing in a basket or cab on the porch. I would not consider it bad form, however, to wheel the baby on the street, but I do consider it the worst of bad form for a nurse to wear her uniform on the street under any circumstances.

When it is possible, if the nurse will spend a half day with a prospective patient, making the pads herself, she can explain the method she pursues. When I have done this I have been repaid by having everything ready at the time of confinement, and invariably the patient has instructed her servants what to expect. Some nurses do not consider it their duty to wash and sterilize the bottles where they are used for the baby. Others do not carry or prepare the patient's tray. To me these things are more strictly the nurse's work than doing the laundry. I cannot say that these are the rules of this locality, as I find that nurses follow their own ideas and individual tastes in settling problems for themselves.

L. B..

Des Moines, Iowa.

DEAR EDITOR: The managers of quack training-schools for nurses, correspondence schools, short-term schools and the like, where nursing pretends to be taught without patients, by dint of hearing a few lectures and attending a few classes, are adopting a most shameless and hypocritical method of advertising themselves and of protecting themselves